

## **Remarks**

### ***A. Specification***

The Office Action noted the use of trademarks in the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 28, and ending at page 10, line 9. This paragraph has been amended to remove the trademark symbols from the terms TEGADERM and OPSITE FLEXIGRID.

### ***B. Information Disclosure Statement***

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's recommendations and comments regarding the information disclosure statement (IDS). Applicants do not interpret the comments to suggest that Applicants are "cloaking . . . clearly relevant references"—any such suggestion would be false. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's recognition that Applicants have no duty to comment on the materiality of any reference, the Examiner's consideration of the references cited in the IDS, and the notation of such consideration on the IDS.

### ***C. Status of the Claims***

Claims 1-11 were pending prior to the Office Action mailed April 9, 2010. Independent claim 1 is amended to recite "at least one discrete opening extending through a top surface of the cover such that the at least one discrete opening is configured to communicate negative pressure directly to an undermined portion of the wound." Independent claim 8 is amended to recite "wherein a majority of the generally continuous planar bottom surface is directly engaged with the top surface of the wound contactable layer such that the cover cooperates with the channels extending along the top surface of the wound contactable layer to define a plurality of passageways connecting each hole with the port" and "the cover configured to substantially prevent communication of negative pressure through the bottom surface of the cover." Independent claim 9 is amended to remove the phrase "and which are uncovered at the top

surface,” and to recite “the second plurality of discrete holes and the plurality of peripheral access channels configured to communicate negative pressure directly to an undermined portion of the wound.” No new matter is added by these amendments. Claims 1-11 remain pending.

***D. Claims 1-11 Are Definite***

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

**1. “uncovered at the top surface”**

The Office states that independent claims 1 and 9 are “unclear/inconsistent” because the “the undermined portion of the wound covers the opening at the top surface.” Office Action at 4. Applicants respectfully disagree. The member is not claimed in the wound (the undermined portion of the wound does not even arguably cover the opening when not in a wound). Nevertheless, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to expedite prosecution. Claim 1 now recites “at least one discrete opening extending through a top surface of the cover such that the at least one discrete opening is configured to communicate negative pressure directly to an undermined portion of the wound.” The phrase “uncovered at the top surface” has been removed from claim 9, which now recites “the second plurality of discrete holes and the plurality of peripheral access channels configured to communicate negative pressure directly to an undermined portion of the wound.” Applicants believe these amendments fully address this portion of the rejection.

**2. “substantially all of the generally planar bottom surface”**

The Office further states that “the description of ‘substantially all of’ the generally planar bottom surface directly engaging the top surface of the wound contactable layer on lines 11-12 but ‘cooperating with the channels extending along the top surface of the wound contactable

layer to define a plurality of passageways' on lines 12-13 is unclear/inconsistent." Action at 5. Applicants respectfully disagree. Nevertheless, claim 8 has been amended to recite wherein a majority of the generally continuous planar bottom surface is directly engaged with the top surface of the wound contactable layer such that the cover cooperates with the channels extending along the top surface of the wound contactable layer to define a plurality of passageways connecting each hole with the port." Applicants believe these amendments fully address this portion of the rejection.

### 3. "generally non-porous"

The Office further states that, with respect to claims 1 and 9, "the description of the cover as being 'generally non-porous' . . . but having 'at least one discrete opening extending through a top surface of the cover' is unclear/inconsistent." Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse.

The essential inquiry pertaining to this requirement is whether the claims set out and circumscribe a particular subject matter with a reasonable degree of clarity and particularity. Definiteness of claim language must be analyzed, not in a vacuum, but in light of:"

- (A)The content of the particular application disclosure;
- (B)The teachings of the prior art; and
- (C)The claim interpretation that would be given by one possessing the ordinary level of skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made.

MPEP §2173.02. Under each of the considerations *required by the MPEP*, the Office's interpretation of "generally non-porous" is unreasonable.

First, the contents of the present application clearly support the definiteness of "generally non-porous." The background section discusses the *porous* materials of the prior art:

- at page 1, lines 15-16: "a *porous* packing may be provided under the cover to fill the space in which the vacuum is formed (emphasis added);"
- at page 1, lines 23-28: "As shown, for example, in U.S. Patent No. 5,645,081 . . . Fig. 1 of the '081 patent discloses an *open cell polyester foam* section covering the wound (emphasis added);"

And the specification and originally filed claims make clear that “generally non-porous” is distinct from the porous foams and gauze of the prior art:

- at page 3, lines 4-12: “The member may further include a plurality of discrete holes . . . . The member may be formed from a **generally non-porous** material (emphasis added);”
- at page 5, lines 15-27: “As shown in Fig. 4, **access openings** include both access channels 62 and **access holes** 64 . . . Referring now to Fig. 4, member 19, layer 20, cover 22, and connector 23 are each made of a medical grade silicone or other type of pliable elastomer. . . . It is within the scope of this disclosure, however, to include a member made of any type of thin, flexible material **that is non-porous and non-foam-like** (emphasis added);” and
- at originally filed claims 1 and 6: “a plurality of discrete holes . . . at least one discrete opening” (claim 1), and “wherein the member is formed from a generally non-porous material” (claim 6).

The specification and original claims use “generally non-porous” to describe the member material—even though it includes one or more holes and/or openings. Thus, the Office’s interpretation is precluded by the specification that **must** guide the interpretation of the claims.

Second, the prior art uses “porous” to describe foam and gauze. *See, e.g.*, Present Application at p. 1, ll. 10-28 (discussing porous packing of prior art and listing U.S. Pat. No. 5,648,081 as an example with “polyester foam”); Risk ‘807 at col. 10, ll. 35-37 (“porous packing 618 . . . is typically a gauze material”). This interpretation is consistent with relevant technical definitions of “porous.” For example, the MCGRAW-HILL DICTIONARY OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TERMS, FIFTH EDITION defines “porous” as “1. **Filled** with pores. 2. Capable of **absorbing** liquids.” Appendix 1 at 1549 (emphasis added). Foam is porous; gauze is porous—both are “filled with pores.” Neither foam nor gauze can be described as “generally non-porous.” Further, a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that a “generally non-porous” cover is generally not “capable of absorbing liquids.” *See, e.g.*, Appendix 1 at 7 (defining “absorb” as “[t]o take up a substance in bulk”).

Third, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have no difficulty discerning the meaning of the claim. The Office must consider “the totality of all the limitations of the claim and their interaction with each other.” *In re Larson*, No. 01-1092 (May 9, 2001) (citing *Radio Steel & Mfg. Co. v. MTD Prods., Inc.*, 731 F.2d 840, 845, 221 USPQ 657, 661 (Fed. Cir. 1984)). The totality of the claims supports the definiteness of “generally non-porous.” For example, “generally non-porous” clearly does not require *entirely* non-porous. Further, claim 1 recites a “at least one *discrete* opening extending through a top surface of the cover” (emphasis added). The MCGRAW-HILL DICTIONARY OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TERMS, FIFTH EDITION defines “discrete” as “1. Composed of *separate and distinct* parts. 2. Having an *individually distinct* identity.” Appendix 1 at 589 (emphasis added). A person of ordinary skill in the art would thus understand “at least one *discrete* opening” to be different than one of the ill-defined and innumerable pores of foam or gauze. By way of illustration, a block of foam is porous, but a block of steel is generally non-porous. Even if one or more *discrete* holes are drilled in the block of steel, a person of ordinary skill in the art would still understand the block of steel to be “generally non-porous.” This is all section 112, second paragraph, requires.

Independent claims 1, 8, and 9, and therefore dependent claims 2-7 and 10-11 which depend therefrom, are definite. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

#### ***D. Claim Language Interpretation***

Applicant believes the foregoing remarks with respect to the indefiniteness rejections fully address the Office’s concerns regarding the interpretation of “generally non-porous.”

With respect to “generally continuous planar bottom surface,” the Office states:

Due to the lack of clarity discussed supra, claim 8, lines 11-12 will be interpreted to require a generally continuous bottom surface with no projections extending

directly therefrom which extends between an outer perimeter of the cover and some portion thereof is directly engaged with the top surface of the wound layer.

The Office's interpretation is again unreasonable. The phrase "generally continuous planar bottom surface" is clear on its face; there is no need to re-write it as the Office has done.

#### ***E. Claims 1-11 Are Novel***

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Risk Jr. et al. (6,755,807, hereinafter referred to as Risk '807), and "thereby, by incorporation," Lockwood et al. (6,685,681, hereinafter referred to as Lockwood '681). Office Action at 6. Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse.

##### **1. Independent claims 1 and 9**

As the Office is aware, anticipation requires a single reference that disclose *all elements of a claim*. Neither Risk '807 nor Lockwood '681 discloses all elements of independent claims 1, 8, and 9, nor of dependent claims 2-7 and 10-11. Even if the packing 618 of Risk '807 (see FIG. 9) is equated to the cover recited in any of claims 1, 8, and 9, Risk '807 simply does not disclose or suggest that the packing 618 could have the claimed characteristics. "[S]ide 612 of bandage member 604 faces wound 300 , and side 610 faces a **porous** packing 618 . . . Packing 618 is typically a **gauze material**." Col. 10, ll. 33-37 (emphasis added). But independent claims 1 and 9, as amended, recite "a **generally non-porous** cover coupled to the wound contactable layer." Risk '807 explicitly discloses a **porous** packing, and thus does not and cannot disclose a **generally non-porous** packing, as recited in independent claims 1 and 9. Common sense dictates that Risk's "porous packing" (e.g., gauze) *cannot* be **generally non-porous**.

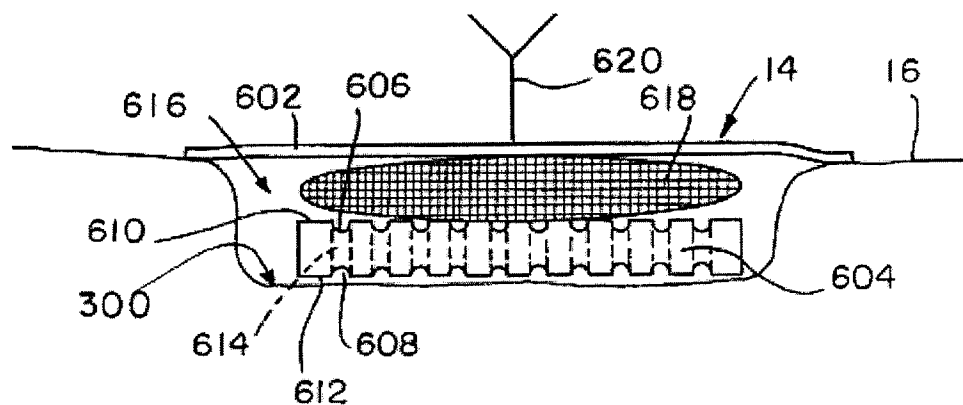
##### **2. Independent claim 8**

At the outset, the rejection of claim 8 does not even address the claimed feature: "outer portions of the channels extending between an outer edge of the cover and an outer edge of the

wound contactable layer defining a plurality of peripheral access channels configured to communicate negative pressure to an undermined portion of the wound.” The rejection is therefore insufficient as a matter of law because it fails to address every feature of the claim.

Independent claim 8 recites “a cover coupled to the wound contactable layer and having a generally *continuous planar* bottom surface” (emphasis added). FIG. 9 of Risk ‘807 shows that packing 618 does not have a “generally continuous planar bottom surface”—as required by the claim. The Office’s interpretation of this phrase is unreasonable. All five words must be given effect: (1) *generally*; (2) *continuous*; (3) *planar*; (4) *bottom*; (5) *surface*.

For example, the dictionary cited by the Office, Merriam-Webster Online, defines “continuous” as “marked by *uninterrupted* extension in space, time, or sequence.” Appendix 2 (emphasis added). The porous packing 618 (e.g., “typically a gauze material”) of Risk ‘807 explicitly does not have a “generally continuous planar bottom surface.” Instead, a porous material like gauze is, by its very nature, discontinuous.



**Relevant Portion of FIG. 9 of Risk ‘807**

Additionally, claim 8 has been amended to recite “the cover configured to substantially prevent communication of negative pressure through the bottom surface of the cover.”

Regardless of the claim language interpretation, *porous* packing 18 does not substantially prevent communication of negative pressure through a bottom surface.

Further, neither reference discloses "outer portions of the channels extending between an outer edge of the cover and an outer edge of the wound contactable layer defining a plurality of peripheral access channels configured to communicate negative pressure to an undermined portion of the wound."

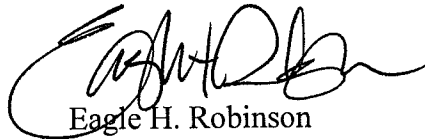
Neither Risk '807 nor Lockwood '681 discloses every element of the present claims. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

### **Conclusion**

Applicants believe that the foregoing remarks fully respond to all outstanding matters for this application.

Should the Examiner desire to sustain any of the rejections discussed in relation to this Response, the courtesy of a telephonic conference between the Examiner, the Examiner's supervisor, and the undersigned attorney at 512-536-3083 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Eagle H. Robinson  
Reg. No. 61,361  
Attorney for Applicant

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.  
600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2400  
Austin, Texas 78701  
(512) 474-5201  
(512) 536-4598 (facsimile)

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# **McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms Fifth Edition**

**Sybil P. Parker**

Editor in Chief

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On the cover: Photomicrograph of crystals of vitamin B<sub>1</sub>.  
(Dennis Kunkel, University of Hawaii)

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absolute stereochemistry See absolute configuration. { 'ab-sə,lüt ,ster-ē'ō'kəm-ə'stēr-ē

absolute stereoscopic parallax [GRAPHICS] Considering a pair of aerial photographs of equal principal distance, the absolute stereoscopic parallax of a point is the algebraic difference of the distances of the two images from their respective photograph nadirs, measured in a horizontal plane and parallel to the air base. Also known as absolute parallax; horizontal parallax; linear parallax; parallax; stereoscopic parallax; x-parallax. { 'ab-sə,lüt ,ster-ē'ō'skəp-ik 'par-ə,laks

absolute stop [CIV ENG] A railway signal which indicates that the train must make a full stop and not proceed until there is a change in the signal. Also known as stop and stay. { 'ab-sə,lüt 'stāp

absolute system of units [PHYS] A set of units for measuring physical quantities, defined by interrelated equations in terms of arbitrary fundamental quantities of length, mass, time, and charge or current. { 'ab-sə,lüt 'sistəm əv 'yū-nits

absolute temperature [THERMO] 1. The temperature measurable in theory on the thermodynamic temperature scale. 2. The temperature in Celsius degrees relative to the absolute zero at -273.16°C (the Kelvin scale) or in Fahrenheit degrees relative to the absolute zero at -459.69°F (the Rankine scale). { 'ab-sə,lüt 'temprə-čhür

absolute temperature scale [THERMO] A scale with which temperatures are measured relative to absolute zero. Also known as absolute scale. { 'ab-sə,lüt 'temprə-čhür ,skāl

absolute term See constant term. { 'ab-sə,lüt 'tərm

absolute threshold [PHYSIO] The minimum stimulus energy that an organism can detect. { 'ab-sə,lüt 'thrəsh-əld

absolute time [GEOL] Geologic time measured in years, as determined by radioactive decay of elements. [PHYS] See absolute space-time. { 'ab-sə,lüt 'tīm

absolute unit [PHYS] A unit defined in terms of units of fundamental quantities such as length, time, mass, and charge or current. { 'ab-sə,lüt 'yū-nēt

absolute vacuum [PHYS] A void completely empty of matter. Also known as perfect vacuum. { 'ab-sə,lüt 'vak-yūm

absolute value Also known as magnitude. [MATH] 1. For a real number, the number if it is nonnegative, and the negative of the number if it is negative. Also known as numerical value. 2. For a complex number, the square root of the sum of the squares of its real and imaginary parts. Also known as modulus. 3. The length of a vector, disregarding its direction; the square root of the sum of the squares of its orthogonal components. { 'ab-sə,lüt 'val-yū

absolute-value computer [COMPUT SCI] A computer that processes the values of the variables rather than their increments. { 'ab-sə,lüt 'val-yū kəm'pyūt-ər

absolute vector [COMPUT SCI] In computer graphics, a vector whose end points are given in absolute coordinates. { 'ab-sə,lüt 'vekt-ər

absolute velocity [PHYS] The vector sum of the velocity of a fluid parcel relative to the earth and the velocity of the parcel due to the earth's rotation; the east-west component is the only one affected. { 'ab-sə,lüt vɛ'ləs-əd-ē

absolute viscosity [FL MECH] The tangential force per unit area of two parallel planes at unit distance apart when the space between them is filled with a fluid and one plane moves with unit velocity in its own plane relative to the other. Also known as coefficient of viscosity. { 'ab-sə,lüt vis'kəs-əd-ē

absolute volume [ENG] The total volume of the particles in a granular material, including both permeable and impermeable voids but excluding spaces between particles. { 'ab-sə,lüt 'völ-yūm

absolute vorticity [FL MECH] The vorticity of a fluid relative to an absolute coordinate system; especially, the vorticity of the atmosphere relative to axes not rotating with the earth. { 'ab-sə,lüt vɔr'tis-əd-ē

absolute wavemeter [ELECTROMAG] A type of wavemeter in which the frequency of an injected radio-frequency voltage is determined by measuring the length of a resonant line. { 'ab-sə,lüt 'wāv,mēd-ər

absolute weighing [ENG] Determination of the mass of a sample and expressing its value in units, fractions, and multiples of the mass of the prototype of the international kilogram. { 'ab-sə,lüt 'wā-ŋ

absolute zero [THERMO] The temperature of -273.16°C, or -459.69°F, or 0 K, thought to be the temperature at which

molecular motion vanishes and a body would have no heat energy. { 'ab-sə,lüt 'zēr-ō

absorb [CHEM] To take up a substance in bulk. [ELECTROMAG] To take up energy from radiation. [PHYS] To take up matter or radiation. { 'əb'sɔrb

absorbance [PHYS CHEM] The common logarithm of the reciprocal of the transmittance of a pure solvent. Also known as absorbancy; extinction. { 'əb'sɔrb-əns

absorbancy See absorbance. { 'əb'sɔrb-əns-ē

absorbed charge [ELEC] Charge on a capacitor which arises only gradually when the potential difference across the capacitor is maintained, due to gradual orientation of permanent dipolar molecules. { 'əb'sɔrbd 'čhärj

absorbed dose [MED] The part of an administered medication which is not excreted by the recipient's body. [NUCLEO] The amount of energy imparted by ionizing particles to a unit mass of irradiated material at a place of interest. Also known as dosage; dose. { 'əb'sɔrbd 'dɔs

absorbed-dose rate [NUCLEO] The absorbed dose of ionizing radiation imparted at a given location per unit of time (second, minute, hour, or day). { 'əb'sɔrbd 'dɔs ,rät

absorbency [CHEM] Penetration of one substance into another. { 'əb'sɔrb-əns-ē

absorbency index See absorptivity. { 'əb'sɔrb-əns-ē 'in-deks

absorbent [MATER] A material which, in contact with a liquid or gas, extracts one or more substances for which it has an affinity, and is altered physically or chemically during the process. { 'əb'sɔrb-ənt

absorbent cotton [MATER] A cotton fiber that absorbs water because its natural waxes have been removed. { 'əb'sɔrb-ənt 'kə-tən

absorbent paper [MATER] Paper capable of absorbing and holding liquids by the capillarity of the pores between or within the closely matted cellulosic fibers. { 'əb'sɔrb-ənt 'pā-pər

absorber [CHEM ENG] Equipment in which a gas is absorbed by contact with a liquid. [ELECTR] A material or device that takes up and dissipates radiated energy; may be used to shield an object from the energy, prevent reflection of the energy, determine the nature of the radiation, or selectively transmit one or more components of the radiation. [ENG] The surface on a solar collector that absorbs the solar radiation. [MECH ENG] 1. A device which holds liquid for the absorption of refrigerant vapor or other vapors. 2. That part of the low-pressure side of an absorption system used for absorbing refrigerant vapor. [NUCLEO] A material that absorbs neutrons or other ionizing radiation. { 'əb'sɔrb-ər

absorber capacity [CHEM ENG] During natural gas processing, the maximum volume of the gas that can be processed through an absorber without alteration of specified operating conditions. { 'əb'sɔrb-ər kə,pas-əd-ē

absorber control See absorption control. { 'əb'sɔrb-ər kən'trɔl

absorber oil See absorption oil. { 'əb'sɔrb-ər ,ɔil

absorber plate [ENG] A part of a flat-plate solar collector that provides a surface for absorbing incident solar radiation. { 'əb'sɔrb-ər ,plāt

absorbing boom [CIV ENG] A device that floats on the water and is used to stop the spread of an oil spill and aid in its removal. { 'əb'sɔrb-ŋ ,būm

absorbing rod See control rod. { 'əb'sɔrb-ŋ ,rɔd

absorbing state [MATH] A special case of recurrent state in a Markov process in which the transition probability,  $P_{ij}$ , equals 1; a process will never leave an absorbing state once it enters. { 'əb'sɔrb-ŋ ,stāt

absorbing well [CIV ENG] A shaft that permits water to drain through an impermeable stratum to a permeable stratum. { 'əb'sɔrb-ŋ ,wel

absorptance [PHYS] The ratio of the total unabsorbed radiation to the total incident radiation; equal to one (unity) minus the transmittance. { 'əb'sɔrb-təns

absorptiometer [ANALY CHEM] 1. An instrument equipped with a filter system or other simple dispersing system to measure the absorption of nearly monochromatic radiation in the visible range by a gas or a liquid, and so determine the concentration of the absorbing constituents in the gas or liquid. 2. A device for regulating the thickness of a liquid in spectrophotometry. { 'əb'sɔrb-tē'mēd-ər

absorptiometric analysis [ANALY CHEM] Chemical analysis of a gas or a liquid by measurement of the peak electromagnetic

# ABSOLUTE TEMPERATURE

	Kelvin	Celsius	Rankine	Fahrenheit
steam point	373°	100°	672°	212°
		100°K or °C		180°R or °F
ice point	273°	0°	492°	32°
solid CO <sub>2</sub>	195°	-78°	351°	-109°
oxygen point	90°	-183°	162°	-297°
absolute zero	0°	-273°	0°	-460°

Comparisons of Kelvin, Celsius, Rankine, and Fahrenheit temperature scales. Temperatures are rounded off to nearest degree. (From M. W. Zemansky, *Temperatures Very Low and Very High*, Van Nostrand, 1964)

conduit with respect to time.

for switching a capacitor suddenly to a load through which it can

lamp in which light is produced by electrodes in a gas (or vapor) known as electric-discharge lamp. { 'dis, chärj, lamp }  
length of pipe through which drill-rump through the standpipe on chärj, fin }

Liquid that has passed through known as effluent; product.

5) A method of printing in shaped to produce characters, also on a previously dyed fabric in a pattern. { 'dis, chärj, print }

impregnated cotton wick encased in aluminum mounting lug, used in static. { 'dis, chärj, r }  
evacuated enclosure containing which current can flow when between metal electrodes in the charge tube. [MECH ENG] A water are released into a boiler

[ENG] A device which detects using a glass tube attached to a of leaked gas is indicated by ge. { 'dis, chärj, tüb 'lek, ür }

stripping agent such as sodium love dyes from fabric that has 'chärj'ig, äj'ent }  
A support built over, and not ber, such as a wooden lintel, to known as relieving arch.

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pe of spicule with eight rays tellid sponges. { 'dis'kāk'tə }

Having sucking disks on the

astrula formed from a blasto-

A family of anuran amphibians Opisthocoela. { 'dis'kō'gläs }

und-circular in form. 2. Any is, köid }

A type of cleavage producing { 'dis'kōid'al 'klē'vij }

ility of extinct conical or glob-the order Holotrypoida distin-internal skeletal partitions.

ivalent name for Lecanorales.

tropical log beetles, a family

of coleopteran insects in the superfamily Cucujoidea. { 'dis'kō'lām'a,dē }

discomfort glare See glare. { 'dis'kam-fört, 'glər }

discomfort index See temperature-humidity index. { 'dis'kam-fört, in,dëks }

discomposition [NUCLEO] The process in which an atom is knocked out of its position in a crystal lattice by direct nuclear impact, as by fast neutrons or by fast ions that have been previously knocked out of their lattice positions. { 'dis'käm-pə'zish-ən }

discomposition effect [NUCLEO] Changes in physical or chemical properties of a substance caused by discomposition. Also known as Wigner effect. { 'dis'käm-pə'zish-ən i,fekt }

Discomycetes [MYCO] A group of fungi in the class Ascomycetes in which the surface of the fruiting body is exposed during maturation of the spores. { 'dis'kō,mī'sid'ëz }

discone antenna [ELECTROMAG] A biconical antenna in which one of the cones is spread out to 180° to form a disk; the center conductor of the coaxial line terminates at the center of the disk, and the cable shield terminates at the vertex of the cone. { 'dis,kōn an'tenə }

disconformity [GEOL] Unconformity between parallel beds or strata. { 'dis,kän'förm'id'ë }

disconnect [ELEC] To open a circuit by removing wires or connections, as distinguished from opening a switch to stop current flow. [ENG] To sever a connection. { 'dis'ka'nekt }

disconnected set [MATH] A set in a topological space that is the union of two nonempty sets A and B for which both the intersection of the closure of A with B and the intersection of the closure of B with A are empty. { 'dis'ka'nekt'ad 'set }

disconnect fitting [ELEC] An electrical connection that can be disconnected without tools. { 'dis'ka'nekt, 'fid'ing }

disconnecting switch [ELEC] A switch that isolates a circuit or piece of electrical apparatus after interruption of the current. Also known as disconnector. { 'dis'ka'nekt'ing, 'switch }

disconnector See disconnecting switch. { 'dis'ka'nektar }

disconnector release [ELEC] Device which disengages the apparatus used in a telephone connection to restore it to its original condition when not in use. { 'dis'ka'nekt'ar ri'les }

discontinuity [ELECTROMAG] An abrupt change in the shape of a waveguide. Also known as waveguide discontinuity. [GEOL] 1. An interruption in sedimentation. 2. A surface that separates unrelated groups of rocks. [GEOPHYS] A boundary at which the velocity of seismic waves changes abruptly. [MATH] A point at which a function is not continuous. [MET] The place where the structural nature of a weldment is interfered with because of the materials involved or where the mechanical, physical, or metallurgical aspects are not homogeneous. [PHYS] A break in the continuity of a medium or material at which a reflection of wave energy can occur. { 'dis,kän'tin'yü'äd'ë }

discontinuous amplifier [ELECTR] Amplifier in which the input waveform is reproduced on some type of averaging basis. { 'dis,kän'tin'yü'was 'amplä, firär }

discontinuous coding sequence [MOL BIO] The coding sequence in deoxyribonucleic acid of eukaryotic split genes consisting of exons and introns. { 'dis,kän'tin'yü'was 'kōd'ing, 'sëkwëns }

discontinuous construction [BUILD] A building in which there is no solid connection between the rooms and the building structure or between different sections of the building; the design aims to reduce the transmission of noise. { 'dis,kän'tin'yü'was kən'strök-shən }

discontinuous phase See disperse phase. { 'dis,kän'tin'yü'was 'fäz }

discontinuous precipitation [MET] Precipitation principally at and away from the grain boundaries in a supersaturated solid solution; diffraction patterns show two lattice parameters; the solute in solution and the precipitate. { 'dis,kän'tin'yü'was prä'sip'rä'shən }

discontinuous reaction series [GEOL] The branch of Bowen's reaction series that include olivine, pyroxene, amphibole, and biotite; each change in the series represents an abrupt change in phase. { 'dis,kän'tin'yü'was rë'ak-shən, 'sirëz }

discontinuous yielding [MET] The nonuniform plastic deformation of a metal along the length strained in tension. { 'dis,kän'tin'yü'was 'yeld'ing }

discopodous [INV ZOO] Having a disk-shaped foot. { 'dis'kōpə-dəs }

Discorbacea [INV ZOO] A superfamily of foraminiferan protozoans in the suborder Rotaliina characterized by a radial, perforate, calcite test and a monolamellar septa. { 'dis'kōr'bäs'ëə }

discord See dissonance. { 'di'skōrd }

discordance [GEOL] An unconformity characterized by lack of parallelism between strata which touch without fusion. { 'di'skōrd-əns }

discordant pluton [GEOL] An intrusive igneous body that cuts across the bedding or foliation of the intruded formations. { 'di'skōrd-ənt 'plü,tän }

DISCOS See disturbance compensation system. { 'dis,kōs }

discount [IND ENG] A reduction from the gross amount, price, or value. { 'dis,käunt }

discount factor [PETRO ENG] The ratio of the present worth of one or a series of future payments to the total undiscounted amount of such future payments. Also known as average discount factor; deferment factor; present-worth factor. { 'dis,käunt, fak'tär }

discovery [MIN ENG] Finding of a valuable mineral deposit. { 'dis'käv'ərë }

discovery claim [MIN ENG] The first claim for the finding of a mineral deposit. { 'dis'käv'ərë, kläm }

discovery vein [MIN ENG] The vein on which a mining claim is based. { 'dis'käv'ərë, vän }

discovery well [PETRO ENG] A successful exploration well. { 'dis'käv'ərë, wel }

discrete [SCI TECH] 1. Composed of separate and distinct parts. 2. Having an individually distinct identity. { 'di'skrët }

discrete address beacon system See Mode S.

discrete comparator See digital comparator. { 'di'skrët kəm'par-ä'tär }

discrete-film zone See belt of soil water. { 'di'skrët, film, zön }

discrete radio source [ASTROPHYS] A source of radio waves coming from a small area of the sky. { 'di'skrët 'räd'ë'ö, 'sörs }

discrete sampling [ELECTR] Sampling in which the individual samples are of such long duration that the frequency response of the channel is not deteriorated by the sampling process. { 'di'skrët 'sämpl'ing }

discrete set [MATH] A set with no cluster points. { 'di'skrët 'set }

discrete sound system [ENG ACOUS] A quadrasonic sound system in which the four input channels are preserved as four discrete channels during recording and playback processes; sometimes referred to as a 4-4-4 system. { 'di'skrët 'saund, 'sis-təm }

discrete spectrum [SPECT] A spectrum in which the component wavelengths constitute a discrete sequence of values rather than a continuum of values. { 'di'skrët 'spek'trəm }

discrete system [CONT SYS] A control system in which signals at one or more points may change only at discrete values of time. Also known as discrete-time system. { 'di'skrët 'sis-təm }

discrete-time system See discrete system. { 'di'skrët, 'tim 'sis-təm }

discrete transfer function See pulsed transfer function. { 'di'skrët 'tranz'fär, 'fəŋk-shən }

discrete variable [MATH] A variable for which the possible values form a discrete set. { 'di'skrët 'verë'bəl }

discrete-word intelligibility [COMMUN] The percent of intelligibility obtained when the speech units under consideration are words, usually presented so as to minimize the contextual relation between them. { 'di'skrët, wörd in, tel-ə'jə'bilit'äd'ë }

discretization error [MATH] The error in the numerical calculation of an integral that results from using an approximate expression for the true mathematical function to be integrated. { 'dis'krä-dä'zä-shən, 'erər }

discriminant [MATH] 1. The quantity  $b^2 - 4ac$ , where  $a, b, c$  are coefficients of a given quadratic polynomial:  $ax^2 + bx + c$ . 2. More generally, for the polynomial equation  $a_0x^n + a_1x^{n-1} + \dots + a_{n-1}x + a_n = 0$ ,  $a_0^{2n-2}$  times the product of the squares of all the differences of the roots of the equation, taken in pairs. { 'di'skrim-ə-nənt }

discriminant function [STAT] A linear combination of a set of variables that will classify events or items for which the variables are measured with the smallest possible proportion of misclassifications. { 'di'skrim-ə-nənt 'fəŋk-shən }

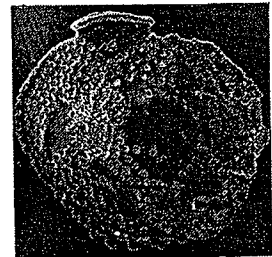
discrimination [COMMUN] 1. In frequency-modulated systems, the detection or demodulation of the imposed variations

## DISCONE ANTENNA



A high-frequency discone antenna.

## DISCORBACEA



Scanning electron micrograph of *Siphonina* from upper Eocene of Mississippi. (R. B. MacAdam, Chevron Oil Field Research Co.)

A family of essential  
xillosina. (por, se)  
rock sliders, a family

\* See supragraphic trap. (pə'ras-əd'e, trap.)

**porphyroblast** [GEOL.] A large crystal enclosed in a fine-grained matrix in a sedimentary rock showing porphyroblast fabric. { por'fir-ə-blast }  
**porphyroblast** [GEOL.] Referring to the fabric of a crystalline

## PORIFERA

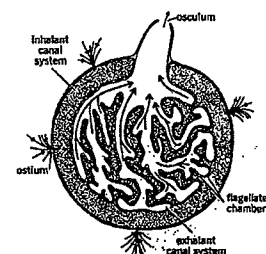


Diagram of the canal system of a young fresh-water sponge.

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Main Entry: con·tin·u·ous

Pronunciation: ˈkən-ˈtɪn-yū-əs\

Function: adjective

Etymology: Latin *continuus*, from *continēre* to hold together — more at CONTAIN

Date: 1673

1 : marked by uninterrupted extension in space, time, or sequence


2 of a function : having the property that the absolute value of the numerical difference between the value at a given point and the value at any point in a neighborhood of the given point can be made as close to zero as desired by choosing the neighborhood small enough

synonyms see CONTINUAL

— con·tin·u·ous·ly adverb

— con·tin·u·ous·ness noun

Where Did "Hip Hop" Get Its Name?



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Pronunciation Symbols

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